



# San Diego County Water Authority

4677 Overland Avenue • San Diego, California 92123-1233  
(858) 522-6600 FAX (858) 522-6568  
www.sdcwa.org

July 31, 2003

The Honorable Ken Calvert, Chair  
House Water and Power Subcommittee  
1522 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Via fax: 202-226-6953

The Honorable Grace Napolitano, Ranking Member  
House Water and Power Subcommittee  
1522 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Via fax: 202-225-0027

**Re: San Diego County Water Authority support for H.R. 2828**

Dear Chairman Calvert and Ranking Member Napolitano:

I am writing on behalf of the San Diego County Water Authority Board of Directors in support of H.R. 2828, landmark bipartisan legislation to authorize the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, provide \$880 million in federal funding for the program through FY 2007 and address water challenges throughout the west.

The success of CALFED's program to restore the Bay-Delta as a reliable supply of high quality water and a healthy ecosystem is essential to all Californians. The Bay-Delta represents one of our two imported water sources in San Diego County. As such, Bay-Delta water helps to form the foundation for the county's \$126 billion economy and the quality of life for nearly 3 million residents.

The Water Authority especially supports the sections of H.R. 2828 that support the development of seawater desalination. If implemented, the competitive grants program proposed in H.R. 2828 will mark the first time that seawater desalination has been specifically recognized by the federal government as a valuable water supply tool.

We also welcome the acknowledgment of seawater desalination as an important part of the Bay-Delta solution, as well as the direction that the Interior Department must consider for funding all seawater desalination feasibility studies, including those that were not prepared with federal financial assistance. The Water Authority Seawater Desalination Project at the Encina Power Plant in Carlsbad is a worthwhile project that falls into this category.

## MEMBER AGENCIES

### CITIES

• Del Mar • Escondido • National City  
• Oceanside • Poway • San Diego

### COUNTY

• San Diego  
(ex officio)

### IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

• Santa Fe • Soule Bay  
• Vista

### PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT

• Chula Vista

### WATER DISTRICTS

• Helix • Gray  
• San Diego  
• Vista

### FEDERAL AGENCY

• Pendleton Military Reservation

### MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICTS

• Carlsbad • Ramona  
• Olivenhain • Rincon del Diablo  
• Poudre River • Valley Center  
• Rainbow • Yuima

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Honorable Ken Calvert, Chair  
Honorable Grace Napolitano, Ranking Member  
July 31, 2003  
Page Two

In addition, we applaud the authorization of \$300 million to help solve the situation regarding the Salton Sea. Insertion of this section in H.R. 2828 reflects your understanding that California's major water resources do not exist in isolation from each other. Pressures on the Colorado River that adversely affect Southern California's water supply are felt in the Bay-Delta, and vice versa.

The Water Authority also appreciates your hard work to restore balance in funding for the Bay-Delta Program. The federal government worked closely with the State of California in developing the program and it controls many of the facilities that play a vital role in the Bay-Delta. Active, authorized federal participation is crucial to the program's success in the years to come.

Please contact us if we may be of further assistance with the passage of H.R. 2828.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bernie Rhinerson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bernie Rhinerson  
Chairman